

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1664

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OAS, SHUM, UY
SUBJ: VIII OASGA

REF: STATE 123344, MONTEVIDEO 1457, MONTEVIDEO 1611

1. FONMIN ALEJANDRO ROVIRA LEAVES FOR NEW YORK TO ATTEND THE UN DISARMEMENT CONFERENCE ON SUNDAY, MAY 21. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY TWO TOP-FLIGHT PROFESSIONALS, FORMER UN AMBASSADOR CARLOS GIAMBRUNO AND FORMER OAS AMBASSADOR MATEO MARQUEZ SERE.

2. FOR ROVIRA AND THE GOU, THE UN CONFERENCE IS OF INTEREST PRIMARILY AS A FORUM FOR CONTACTS TO DISCUSS AGENDA ITEMS AND THE POSITIONS TO BE TAKEN AT THE VIII OASGA. THESE THREE MEN CONSTITUTE THE KEY GOU DECISION-MARKERS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CONCERNED WITH OAS MATTERS. THUS, CONVERSATIONS ON USG POSITIONS AND INTERESTS AT THE VIII OASGA WILL HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED WITH ROVIRA AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN NEW YORK.

3. AT THE OASGA, THE GOU DELEGATION IS INCLINED TO ASSUME A NON-CONFRONTATIONAL STANCE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AND SPECIFICALLY ON THE IAHRC REPORT ON URUGUAY. WE CAN REINFORCE THIS POSTURE AND LEND OUR SUPPORT BY CON-

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VERSATIONS IN NEW YORK. WE MUST ASSUME THAT THE GOU DELEGATIONS WILL BE MAKING SOUNDINGS AT THE SAME TIME WITH THE DELEGATIONS FROM OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND WILL BE REPORTING BACK THE SUBSTANCE OF THESE SESSIONS TO THEIR MILITARY MENTORS.

4. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT TAKE AD-

VANTAGE OF ROVIRA'S PRESENCE IN NEW YORK TO HOLD SUB-
STANTIVE CONVERSATIONS ON THE OASGA. POINTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS
WE SHOULD STRESS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A) THE GOU HAS IMPROVED THE ATMOSPHERE ON HUMAN
RIGHTS THROUGH ITS SUCCESSFUL HANDLING OF THE NAS AND
ABA VISITS.

B) THESE POSITIVE FIRST STEPS ARE HOPEFUL SIGNS
WHICH CAN BE USED PROFITABLY IN DISCUSSING THE HUMAN
RIGHTS ISSUE AT THE OASGA.

C) THE IAHRC IS WILLING TO WORK WITH THE GOU TO
DEVELOP THE BASIS OF A NEW RELATIONSHIP. THE URUGUAYAN
DELEGATION SHOULD USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAXIMUM
ADVANTAGE.

D) THE US DELEGATION IS WILLING TO BE HELPFUL TO
FURTHER URUGUAY'S POSITIVE POSITION AND TO AVOID A
REPETITION OF THE CONTENTIOUS DEBATE WHICH OCCURRED
AT GRENADA AND IS PREPARED TO URGE OTHER DELEGATIONS TO
DO LIKEWISE.

5. ROVIRA AND THE GOU DELEGATION WILL APPRECIATE ANY
ATTENTION SHOWN BY AMBASSADOR MCGEE OR
ARA PRINCIPALS. I WOULD NOT RECOMMEND A
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BILATERAL MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY. BUT SHOULD
THE SECRETARY MEET ROVIRA DURING HE SESSION OR AT A
REUNION WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATIONS, IT WOULD
BE HELPFUL IF HE COULD REINFORCE THE MODERAT FORCES HERE
BY: A) COMPLIMENTING ROVIRA ND THE GOU FOR THEIR CO-
OPERATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE NAS AND ABA VISITS, AND
B) ACKNOWLEDGING THE STATESMANSHIP THAT WILL BE DEMON-
STRATED BY URUGUAY IF, AS INDICATED, IT ASSUMES A
VERY POSITIVE STANCE AT THE VIII OASGA.

6. I WOULD APPRECIATE PROMPT REPORTS ON THE SUBSTANCE
OF ANY MEETINGS HELD, TO LEND SUPPORT FROM THIS END AND
TO ASSURE THAT HE GOU ISN'T SWAYED FROM ITS POSITION
OF ASSUMING A MODERATE AND CONSTRUCTIVE POSTURE AT THE
OASGA ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE.
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